

## Surgery News

Dr Hunt has been totally overwhelmed by the number of farewell cards, good wishes and gifts that have been showered on him over the last few weeks. They have certainly shown the affection and esteem in which he is held. He has asked me to thank everyone via "Surgery News" for their kindness and generosity, which have really touched him. He says that he is going to miss all of you just as much as you say you will miss him. What he won't miss is the daily hassle and stress created by an NHS which seems to have completely lost its way in the face of constant changes of direction, interference and sniping by the government.

As Dr Hunt leaves, we have a new GP partner starting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. She is Dr Karen Chumbley, who will be joining us from a surgery in Colchester. I'll try to give you the usual pen picture of her next month when she has been with us for a couple of weeks and realises what she has let herself in for!

August has brought, as often happens, a change of GP Registrar – the young doctors who come to us for part of their training as general practitioners before being released on the public at large. Dr Anumnu, who has been a real asset and source of some fun over the last six months, has left us to continue his training at the Creffield Medical Centre in Colchester. We wish him well and will miss him.

The "new boy" is Dr George Pontikis who is set to be with us for the next year after which he will be fully-fledged GP. He is, of course, already an experienced doctor, having qualified from Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital in London back in 2008. Since then he has worked mainly in hospitals in a variety of specialities, but having done preliminary training at Ardleigh Surgery he is now convinced that his future is as a GP.

Like many of our recruits, Dr Pontikis, who is unmarried but with a steady girlfriend, went all coy when I asked him for a few personal details to pass on to you. Eventually though, he owned up to being a car enthusiast – he has a 1986 convertible BMW for summer use and what he insists is a very ordinary estate car for wintertime. He's a keen photographer, an eager traveller, and a retired 5-a-side footballer who now runs to keep fit. He also reads a lot, though whether that is medical journals or the normal sort of nonsense that most of the rest of us enjoy, I don't think he said. Finally, he's a Spurs supporter – much to Dr O'Reilly's disgust, which probably gives a hint of which team he supports.

As I say each time this sort of change happens, I'm sure that many of you will get to know and depend on Dr Pontikis over the next year. Meanwhile, we will do our best to make him feel welcome and at home at "The Hollies" – despite the White Hart Lane connection.

And I haven't finished yet with the leavers, because our Nurse Practitioner, Sue Webb has been enticed away from us by the offer of a similar job at Caradoc surgery in Frinton. (Inside the gates, don't you know?) She assures me that the only reason she is moving is that her new workplace will be literally just a three minute walk from her front door. How can I possibly argue with that? Has she lived inside the gates all these years without us realising?

Sue joined us in 2008 and over the last five years has done a brilliant job looking after our diabetic patients. Due to her extensive experience and advanced training, she was also able to prescribe in her own right and run Minor Ailment clinics for us, seeing and treating people who, a few years ago, would have had to take up an urgent GP appointment. She was really effective at taking pressure off the doctors by keeping down the number of "extras" they needed to see at the end of their normal surgery sessions. She has also been an excellent management colleague, regularly coming up with and putting into action good, innovative ideas. We are going to miss her badly and recruiting her replacement will be a difficult priority job.

Anyway, good luck with the new post Sue. I'm sure that our loss will be Caradoc's huge gain.

Hugh Cronin

Practice Manager, Great Bentley Surgery